Catalogue of
Arabic Manuscripts
(Miscellaneous)
Vol. VIII

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A Tribute

To

Maulana Imtiyaz Ali Khan 'Arshi'

Nazim-i-Kutub Khana

(1932 – 1981)

The compiler & cataloguer of six volumes
Of
Arabic manuscripts

Rampur Raza Library

Rampur

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Introduction

The Rampur Raza Library is one of the important libraries of the World. Besides works relating to different religions, traditions, it is a treasure house of Indo-Islamic learning and arts. This library was founded by Nawab Faizullah Khan in 1774. The Nawabs of Rampur were great patrons of learning and the learned *ulema*, poets, painters, calligraphers and musicians - enjoyed their patronage. After the independance of India and merger of the state in the union of India, the library was brought under the management of the trust, which was created on 6th April, 1951. Professor Saiyid Nurul Hasan, former Minister of Education, Government of India, brought this library under an Act of Parliament on 1st. July, 1975. The Chairman of the board is Honourable Governor of Uttar Pradesh. It is having around 17000 manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Pashto, Sanskrit, Urdu, Hindi and Turkish languages. Moreover, it possesses a good collection of paintings and palm leaves in various Indian languages. A collection of around 60,000 printed books in various Indian and foreign languages are also available.

There are two landmarks in the Islamic world in the field of Cataloguing – Ibn Nadeem's – *Al-Fehrist* and Haji Khalifa's – *Kashfaz Zanoon.* Raza Library is having rich collection of manuscripts and prepared its catalogues. Ahmed Ali Shauq wrote a book titled – *Kitab Khana-i-Rampur*, which was published in 1998. It shows that first, list of the manuscripts and books was prepared during the period of Nawab Kalbe Ali Khan (1865-87). It seems to be the first proper list of the collection of Raza Library.

In 1888, Maulana Shibli Nomani visited this library and submitted a comprehensive report titled – "*Report Mutaliq Kutub Khana-i-Riyasat Aliya Mustafabad, Rampur*" dated 14th October, 1888. He pointed out the problems of

the catalogues of Raza Library. Then he again visited Raza Library on 6th April, 1914. On the basis of this report Nawab Mushtaq Ali Khan (1887-89) directed the staff of the library to prepare the new Catalogue of the Manuscripts of the library in the light of the suggestions of Maulana Shibli Nomani. This catalogue bears the following columns.

1. *Nam-i-Fan* (Name of the subject)
2. *Number Shumar* (Number)
3. *Nam-i-Kitab* (Name of the book)
4. *Nam-i-Musannif* (Name of the book)
5. *Zaban* (Language)
6. *Qalmi/Chhapa* (Manuscript or Printed)
7. *Kaifiyat* (Condition)

Following scholars were deputed to work for the cataloguing of manuscripts and published books of Raza Library, Maulana Hafeezullah, Maulana Muhammad Taiyab, Principal of *Madarasa-i-Aliya*, Maulana Fazl-i-Haq Rampuri, Maulvi Zahoorul Hasan, Maulvi Majduddin and Maulvi Fasihuz Zaman. This catalogue was having classification of books on the subject.

In 1897 Haifz Ahmed Ali Shauq was appointed in the library and under the supervision of Hakim Ajmal Khan, prepared the list of Arabic books based on subject. There are stock registers and the list of books which was prepared during the period of Nawab Hamid Ali Khan (1889-1930) by Munshi Amir Meenai, Munshi Abdur Rahim and Mehdi Ali Khan, *Munsarim* of Raza Library in 1889. This register bears the signature of all the three persons. Now this register itself has become a manuscript. Alphabetic order is followed for the listing of books. It is having 9347 books. But in 1904 on Nawab Hamid Ali Khan's suggestion a new

register was prepared. Ahmed Ali Shauq writes that, "During the period of *Nawab Khuld Ashiyhan* (Nawab Kalbe Ali Khan) a register was prepared in three parts." This list was based on alphabetic order but the classification based on subject, was not being followed. This register is having both the manuscripts and published books together. This catalogue was published in 1902. It is having details about the manuscript. Then he prepared the second and third volumes of the catalogues with more modifications which were published in 1928. These two catalogues are more detailed and descriptive. He had taken inspiration from the Catalogue of manuscripts published by British Museum, London. He himself mentions that this was done by Maulana Muhammad Nabi, Registrar *Kutub Khana* and Maulana Abdullah Amratsari also contributed in this work. But these catalogues were having manuscripts and books together. These catalogues were written in Urdu language. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Former Minister of Education, Government of India, visited Raza Library in 1952 and he also suggested for the compilation of catalogue of manuscripts and printed books.

Hakim Ajmal Khan was appointed as Afsar-i-Ala of Raza Library by Nawab Hamid Ali Khan. Under Hakim Ajmal Khan's patronage the first volume of Arabic manuscripts was compiled and published in 1902. Then Hafiz Ahmed Ali Khan Shauq (b.1862) was appointed as the librarian of Raza Library in 1905. He worked on Cataloguing of the manuscripts of the library. He compiled the second and third volume of Arabic manuscripts, which were published in 1928 and 1929 in urdu. He prepared this catalogue on the pattern of the catalogue of manuscripts published by British Museum, London.

In 1932, Maulana Imtiyaz Ali Khan Arshi took over the charge as *Nazim-i-Kutub Khana*. He was an eminent scholar and took keen interest in the collection of the Library. He took up the task of the compilation of Catalogue of Arabic

manuscripts of Raza Library. He compiled and published six volumes of Catalogues of Arabic manuscripts. Maulana Imtiyaz Ali Khan Arshi rearranged the collection of the library and separated manuscripts from the published works based on subject. Instead of doing cataloguing in Urdu, Maulana Imtiyaz Ali Khan Arshi compiled the catalogue of Arabic manuscripts in English so that larger section of scholars could be benefitted. Mr. Imtiyaz Ali Khan Arshi, writes in his preface dated 26th November, 1963 that, "This is the first volume of Catalogue of Arabic manuscripts preserved in Raza Library, Rampur." Mr. D.M. Sinha, IAS, Secretary, Raza Library Trust, writes in his introduction dated 27th November, 1963 that, "Since long the need for publishing in English a Descriptive Catalogue of the manuscripts of Raza Library, Rampur, was felt by oriental scholars all over the world. Fortunately the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Government of India, sanctioned a grant for publishing a Catalogue of Arabic and Persian manuscripts. With their aid, which we acknowledge with thanks, we have been able to place before oriental scholars the first volume of this catalogue of Arabic manuscripts. It is proposed to exhaust the Arabic manuscripts in four volumes, after which the catalogue of Persian manuscripts will be issued on the same pattern." Mr. Sinha highlighting the scholarship of the compiler of this catalogue records in these words, "The compiler of this catalogue, Mr. Imtiyaz Ali Khan Arshi is a scholar of repute in the world of the oriental learning. I am sure, this work of his years labour would be up to the standard lay down by his co-workers both in this country and abroad." Maulana Arshi successfully completed six volumes of the catalogue of Arabic manuscripts in 1977 but his death in 1981, proved to be a setback in the compilation of the descriptive catalogues and since then this work suffered a setback. When I joined as Director of Raza Library on 3rd April, 2012, so I decided to pay special attention for the compilation of the descriptive catalogues of manuscripts. Catalogue of Pashto manuscripts was

published by Rampur Raza Library in 2012.Catalogue of Turkish and two volumes of Persian manuscripts published in 2014.

I am highly grateful to Shri Ram Naik, Honourable Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chairman, Rampur Raza Library for his patronage. I am extremely grateful to Shri Sripad Yesso Naik, Minister of Culture, and Mr. Ravinder Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture for their financial support. I am thankful to Principal Secretary to Honourable Governor of Uttar Pradesh Mrs Juthika Patankar for his kind help and support. I am equally indebted to Shri V. Srinivas, Joint secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi for giving me all the help.

I am highly thankful to Dr. Tabassum Sabir for the compilation of ixI th volume of the Catalogue of Arqabic Manuscripts. I am grateful to my colleagues Dr. Abusad Islahi, Library and Information Officer, Mr. Isbah Khan, Mr. A.K. Saxena, Ms. Mohini Rani, Ms. Bilqis Farooqi, Mr. Faisal Khan and Er. Shujauddin Khan whose valuable help and hard work has made this work possible.

Dated: 6th January, 2014

Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Husain
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Preface

Rampur Raza Library is having many rare collection of Arabic manuscripts. It is a very delighting moment for me to present the **volume eighth** of descriptive catalogue of Arabic manuscripts. I tried to my level best to maintain the academic and research standards in this volume, which is set forth in the previous volumes.

This volume is on **“miscellaneous”** subject. It consists of one hundred forty nine Arabic manuscripts with inclusion of rare and rarest. Though there is no any catalogue on this particular subject but a Hand-list prepared by Moulana Imtiyaz Ali Khan ‘Arshi’, who compiled six catalogues of Arabic manuscripts, most of the manuscript are covered in that list, large number of manuscripts were without their names and other information.

Many manuscripts have particular subject but included in miscellaneous due to some compulsion. There are thirty manuscripts, which have been included later on as a tailpiece of all previous subjects. These 30 manuscripts were not registered in hand-list of Moulana Arshi. Therefore, the subjects of every manuscript of this catalogued are assumed by me and mentioned in the column of About book as much as possible. The subjects are many as Tafseer (Interpretation of the Holy Quran), Hadis (Sayings and traditions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)), Theology , Jurisprudence, Fundamental of jurisprudence, Syntax of Arabic grammar, Etymology, Calligraphy, Rhetoric, The science of structural semantics, Anatomy, Science of medicine, Mysticism , Knowledge of inheritance, dialectics knowledge Geometry, Music, Arithmetic, Geomancy, Magic, Philosophy, Occult Science, Physiognomy, Astrology, Astronomy, Science of Jewels, etc.

The format of this catalogue is different from the earlier one adopted by Moulana Arshi. It is very similar to the catalogue of manuscripts published by the library of Astana-i-Qudus Mash'had, Iran.

In addition, with some strategies have been used in catalogue to facilitate the scholars; are as follows:

In comparison of the previous volumes, the abbreviations as Cat. For catalogue, MS / MSS. For manuscripts, b. For Ibn or bin, A. For Ahmad, H. For Hasan etc are not adopted. Instead of, full names are used for the convenience of researchers.

If the binding has more than one manuscript (desirable and not desirable) the other manuscript, which are not related to the desired subject of catalogue, have been mentioned with their names, numbers and folios. So that they can be separated and catalogued with description in future and it will be the useful indication for scholars too.

Equivalent catalogue numbers of manuscripts having Accession and old numbers are given to enable a reader to find his/her material through either of the approaches.

The necessary diacritical marks have been provided for the transliteration of Arabic names into English and for the convenient of the researcher, these names are also given in Arabic.

In the end of the volume there are given three indexes as Title Index, Author Index, and Copier Index for the researchers to easily find their desired material in a short time.

In the column of About Book, I tried to mention the sources and references where I could trace the manuscript easily and given their detail in the end of the catalogue.

Now I want to draw special attention on few rarest manuscript of among the many old and rare manuscripts catalogued in this volume. The following deserve special mention:

Manuscript Call No. 5382- ***Miftāh-ul-Ulūm:*** A very nice and explanatory work on rhetoric subject by Sirājuddin Abu Ya'qūb Yūsuf bin Abi Bakr Al-Sakāki Al-Khawārizmi (d. 626AH/ 1229AD). The copy was transcribed in Nas'tāliq with full of memory and marginal notes by Mohammad bin Ibrahim bin Ahmad Al-Aqsaraī in 767AH/1366AD. **Page no.9**

Manuscript Call No. 5389- ***Sharah Miftāh-ul-Ulūm:*** A very valuable and well-known commentary on "Miftāhul Ulūm" of as-Sakkaki by a Muslim Persian polymath S'aduddin Abu Saeed Masūd bin Umar bin 'Abdullah Al-Taftazāni (d.792AH/ 1390AD) Who wrote this commentary in 789AH/1387AD. The copier Mohammad Hādi Al-Hasani prepared this manuscript in 1081AH/ 1670AD during Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's period (1658AD to 1707AD). The copy is full of memory and marginal notes with seals. **Page no.25**

Manuscript Call No. 5392- ***Sharah Miftāh-ul-Ulūm:*** Another well known commentary on the third part of "Miftah-ul-Ulūm" of as-Sakkaki by Ali bin Mohammd bin Ali, better known as as-Sayyed Al-Sharif Al- Jurjāni (d.816AH/1413AD) who was leading traditionalist theologian of 15th century in Iran. The copy was transcribed in Naskh, Fine persianate or Turkish hand by a Turkish man Khalil bin Ali who belong to the famous Ottoman Arabic Islamic Madarsa Al-Halabi or Al-Halbiyah, He copied this manuscript in 838AH/1434AD in Adrana ادرانه.The copy is full of extensive marginal glosses. **Page no.35**

Manuscript Call No. 5412-*Kitab Bayanush Shar'a:* This is a famous

work on tradition by an Ibadis writer Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Kindi. The work is based on manifesto of the religious laws. The manuscript has been written and copied in ‘Oman’ for Imam Sultan bin Saif Al-Yarubi (d.1090AH/1679AD). The copy was transcribed in Naskh by Sālim bin Rabia bin Rāshid, in 1078AH /1668AD. **Page no.118**

Manuscript Call No.(5414)-*Al-Elan bi-Niamillah-il-Wahib-il-Kareem Al-Mannan:* This is a nice work, based on different subjects as Islamic law and jurisprudence, versification (Ilm-e-Uruz) science of poetry), Arabic grammar (Ilm-e-Sarf), logic (Ilm-e-Mantiq), pronunciation of the Holy Qur’ān **by** Ahmad bin Abdullah Al-Silmi known as As-Sānnah (d. After 1117 AH/ 1705AD). The manuscript is rare in library collection due to containing important notes, seals and its age. **Page no.126**

Manuscript Call No.(5414)- *Nuzhat –un –Nazir wa Fakiha-tul Badi wl-Hazir min Tullab-i-Dawairil Bahril Uruz-iz Zawakhir:* The work based on the science of poetry (Ilm-e-Urooz) by Ahmad bin Abdullah Al-Silmi known as As- Sānnah (d.After 1117AH/1705AD) The work composed in 1110AH/1698AD, copied in Naskh in 1115AH/1703 AD. Last folio of the manuscript has the chart of alphabets of following seven languages: Hebrew (عبرانی) Tabiyi (طبیعی) Yunani (یونانی) Himyarite (حمیری) Bernawi (برناوی) Qultari (قلطری) Qulaqtari (قلقطری).**Page no.132**

Manuscript Call No. 5427-*Al-Kashkol:* This is a large collection in five volumes, containing both Arabic and Persian extracts, includes stories, news, scientific topics, Persian and Arabic proverbs, composed in 1027 AH/ 1617AD by Baha’uddin Mohammad bin Husain bin Abdus Samad Al-Harisi

Al-Amili (d.1031AH/1621 AD). The copy was transcribed in Nas'taliq in Madarsah Āsafiyah, Shīrāz in 1050AH/ 1640AD and decorated with outer border and illuminated headpiece. **Page no.196**

Manuscript Call No.5428-*Al-Kashkol:* Another delicate copy of above work, copied by author's copy on his order in 1029AH/1619AD and in 1054AH/ 1644AD by Nasiruddin Lahori in Akbarabad and in Isfahan. The manuscript is rare due to its period, beautiful and impressive writing and place of copying. **Page no.200**

Manuscript Call No.5430-*Khirqat-ul-Ulama:* This work is considered as masterpiece in literature, embodies various art and sciences by an Iranian scholar Ibn-e-Imad Abul Fazl bin Rouzbahan Al-Asfahani well known as Khawaja Mulla. The manuscript is rare due to its period that it belongs to the Daccan Qutub Shahi period and also because of the Royal seal. **Page no.206**

Acknowledgements:

In the conclusion, First of All I thank to Almighty Allah who always showers his blessings (Rehma) upon me and without his guidance at each and every step during compilation of this great work of knowledge, I cannot go ahead a single step.

I cannot reciprocate the generosity of our respectable Director Prof. Sayyid M. Azizuddin Husain who encouraged and guided me in a great way. I am moved by his thoughts and actions.

I am so thankful to Mr. Abu Sad Islahi, Library and Information Officer. As the custodian of the library's manuscripts, he has a long experience. He is provided the manuscripts and solved my problem during the cataloguing from time to time.

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I also appreciate to my colleague Ms. Nazma Bi, who supports to feed data in computer and performed her duties very well.

I feel much indebted to all my colleagues for their appreciable suggestions and moral support received during the compilation of this catalogue specially Dr. Muhammad Irshad Nadwi, Mr. S. Naved Qaiser Shah, Miss. Sanobar Shah Khan and Dr. Preeti Agrawal.

At last; I would like to say that universal truth is “To Err is Human”, if learned scholars find mistakes and errors, their feedback always welcome. I will try to improve and will do at my best.

May Allah bless all of us and make this work a useful source of knowledge for scholars and researchers.

Thanks and regard.

Date: 10th September, 2014

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